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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/022,019	12/14/2001	Timothy Glyn Hankins	52308-1071	4883

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EXAMINER

ST CYR, DANIEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2876

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/022,019

Applicant(s)

HANKINS, TIMOTHYY GLYN

Examiner

Daniel St.Cyr

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/194,854.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 09/194,854, filed on 4/29/97.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1, 11, 12, and 13 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 1, 11, 12, line 1, "whether or not to select" should be changed to --in selecting--.

Claim 12, line 5, "on the basis" should be changed to --based on--.

Claim 13, lines 2-3, "the terms of the service itself" should be changed to --terms of the service--.

Claim 14, line 3, "the" before "nature" and "service" should be changed to --a--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shepley, US Patent No. 5,478,989, cited by the applicant.

Shepley discloses nutritional information system for shoppers, wherein a computerized method and system for providing personalized nutritional information to consumers in a simplified

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manner. The computerized system correlates individual personal data, such as age, height weight, medical condition, nutritional preference, and demographic data, with the desired food products, which the individual seeks to purchase. The system includes a portable reading means for reading a bar code on a product (see col. 6, lines 14-59).

Double Patenting

5. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

6. Claims 1-14 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-32 of U.S. Patent No. 6,375,077 (hereinafter '077 Patent). Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the present claimed invention is somewhat a broader recitation of the '077 Patent. For instance, in claim 1 of the present invention and '077 Patent, the applicant claims:

"A selection system for advising a user in selecting a product or service, including a processing unit comprising a product or service database including product and or service data on a plurality of products or services, selection means for selecting a particular product or service listed in the database, and remote user means operable by a user for identifying a product or service and for indicating to the user a suitability of the product or service based on one or more

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predetermined user preferences, the remote user means including transmitting means operable to transmit at least the product or service identifier to the processing unit for processing therein.”

Where as in ‘077 Patent, the applicant claims:

“A product selection system for advising a user comprising: a product database having user preference data corresponding to a plurality of products; a means for selecting a particular product listed in the product database; a means for matching the user preferences with each one of the plurality of products; a means for generating a sub-database having data corresponding to the plurality of products matching the user preference, the sub-database residing within a mobile user device, and wherein the product database includes predetermined characteristics of each product, one or more of the characteristics being unrelated to the ingredient content of the particular product; and a means for advising the user to select the product if the selected product has one or more of the predetermined characteristics specified by the user in the sub-database.” Etc..

As to the claims 1-14 of the instant application, the’077 Patent meets all the limitations as set forth in claims 1-32.

Thus, in respect to above discussions, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time the invention was made to use the teaching of claims 1-32’077 patent as a general teaching for advising customers/users, to perform the same function as claimed in the present invention. The instant claims obviously encompass the claimed invention of the ‘077 patent and differ only in terminology. The extent that the instant claims are broaden and therefore generic to claimed invention of ‘077 patent [species], In re Goodman 29 USPQ 2d 2010 CAFC 1993, states that a

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generic claim cannot be issued without a terminal disclaimer, if a species claim has been previously been claimed in a co-pending application.

The obviousness-type double patenting rejection is a judicially established doctrine based upon public policy and is primarily intended to prevent prolongation of the patent term by prohibiting claims in a second patent not patentably distinct from the claims in a first patent. *IN re Vogel*, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970). A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. & 1.321(b) would overcome an actual or provisional rejection on this ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 C.F.R. & 1.78(d).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Sundelin, US Patent No. 4,002,886. Sarwin, US Patent No. 4,521,677. Kretsch et al, US Patent No. 5,233,520. Kiewit, US Patent No. 4,930,011.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel St.Cyr whose telephone number is 703-305-2656. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G Lee can be reached on 703-305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7721 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

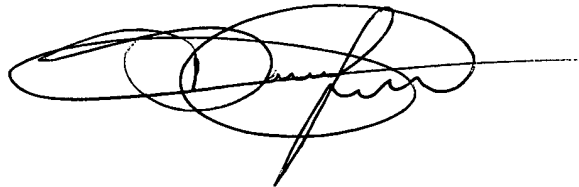
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Daniel St.Cyr
Examiner
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DS
November 18, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel St. Cyr", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.